

Amendments to Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A circuit, comprising:
electronic component having an enclosure that
protects the electronic component;
structure that ~~is disposed onto~~ surrounds the an
~~enclosure for the electronic component~~ and that ~~is~~
~~provided to reduce a thermal drift in at least one~~
~~characteristic of the electronic component by increasing~~
increases a thermal mass of the electronic component.
2. (Cancelled) The circuit of claim 1, wherein the
structure comprises a material that increases a thermal
mass of the electronic component.
3. (Currently Amended) The circuit of claim 1, wherein
the structure comprises a metal case around the
~~electronic component~~ enclosure.
4. (Currently Amended) The circuit of claim 1, wherein
the structure comprises a ceramic case around the
~~electronic component~~ enclosure.
5. (Cancelled) The circuit of claim 1, wherein the
structure comprises an insulator.
6. (Currently Amended) The circuit of claim 1, ~~wherein~~
~~the structure comprises a material that increases the~~
~~thermal mass of the electronic component and further~~
comprising an insulator that encases the ~~electronic~~
~~component and the material~~ structure.
7. (Cancelled) The circuit of claim 1, wherein the
structure comprises a circuit board that holds the
electronic component which is separated from a circuit

board that holds a set of other components of the circuit.

8. (Cancelled) The circuit of claim 7, wherein the structure further comprises a material that increases a thermal mass of the electronic component.

9. (Cancelled) The circuit of claim 7, wherein the structure further comprises an insulator over the electronic component.

10. (Cancelled) The circuit of claim 7, wherein the structure further comprises a material that increases a thermal mass of the electronic component and an insulator that encases the electronic component and the material.

11. (Cancelled) The circuit of claim 1, wherein the structure comprises a gap which reduces a heat conduction path a ground plane in a circuit board and the electronic component.

12. (Original) The circuit of claim 1, wherein the circuit is an oscillator circuit.

13. (Original) The circuit of claim 1, wherein the circuit is a clock circuit.

14. (Previously Presented) The circuit of claim 13, further comprising:

means for communication via a network;

means for synchronizing a local time value in the clock circuit in response to a set of messages transferred via the network.

15. (Currently Amended) A distributed system having a

set of nodes, each node comprising:

local clock including a crystal component having an enclosure that protects the crystal component;

~~structure for reducing thermal drift in the crystal component by increasing~~ that surrounds the enclosure and that increases a thermal mass of the crystal component.

16. (Cancelled) The distributed system of claim 15, wherein the structure comprises a material that increases a thermal mass of the electronic component.

17. (Currently Amended) The distributed system of claim 15, wherein the structure comprises a metal case around the ~~crystal component~~ enclosure.

18. (Currently Amended) The distributed system of claim 15, wherein the structure comprises a ceramic case around the ~~crystal component~~ enclosure.

19. (Cancelled) The distributed system of claim 15, wherein the structure comprises an insulator.

20. (Currently Amended) The distributed system of claim 15, ~~wherein the structure comprises a material that increases a thermal mass of the crystal component and~~ further comprising an insulator that encases the ~~crystal component and the material~~ structure.

21. (Withdrawn) A circuit, comprising:
electronic component;
structure for thermally isolating the electronic component from a set of other components of the circuit.

22. (Withdrawn) The circuit of claim 21, wherein the structure comprises a circuit board that holds the

electronic component and that is separated from a circuit board that holds the other components of the circuit.

23. (Withdrawn) The circuit of claim 22, wherein the structure further comprises a material that increases a thermal mass of the electronic component.

24. (Withdrawn) The circuit of claim 22, wherein the structure further comprises an insulator over the electronic component.

25. (Withdrawn) The circuit of claim 22, wherein the structure further comprises a material that increases a thermal mass of the electronic component and an insulator that encases the electronic component and the material.

26. (Withdrawn) The circuit of claim 21, wherein the structure comprises a gap in a ground plane of a circuit board that holds the electronic component and the other components and which reduces a heat conduction path between the ground plane and the electronic component.